

Douglas County



Court News

TRAFFIC CITATIONS

Ryan W. Aper, 28, Chatham, registration expired.

Kyle Beck, 23, Newman, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.

Geovanni De La Cruz Garcia, 33, Indianapolis, Ind., unlicensed, operating an uninsured vehicle, speeding 15-20 MPH over limit and child restraint violation/child under 8.

Jason N. Earl, 40, Atwood, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.

Tomi M. News, 57, Sullivan, failure to reduce speed.

Olivia T. Sgaman, 19, Marshall, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.

Lindsay R. Weiss, 18, Mahomet, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.

Alam E. Garza, 27, Newman, operating an uninsured vehicle.

Mark B. Helmuth, 46, Newman, operating an uninsured vehicle.

Casey R. Kallembach, 24, Camargo, operating an uninsured vehicle.

Naaman D. Lambert, 43, Pesotum, operating an uninsured vehicle.

Michael A. Mantels, 21, Newman, operating an uninsured vehicle.

Porfirio Castillo, 32, Dallas, Texas, speeding 21-25 MPH over limit.

Steve G. Hargis, 70, Arcola, failed right-of-way/t-intersecton.

Michael Lyn Robinson, 32, Charleston, no window treatment adjacent/driver.

Stephaie Ellen Venis, 34, Tuscola, speeding 15-20 MPH over limit.

Austin Shaw, 27, Arcola, operating an uninsured vehicle.

CRIMINAL CHARGES

Sidney E. Mast, 22, Tuscola, charged with a Class 3 felony for alleged unlawful use of weapons by

felons and a Class 3 felony for alleged possession of firearm without FOID.

Leon G. Helka, 58, San Antonio, Texas, charged with a Class 4 felony for alleged aggravated unlawful use of a weapon and a Class 3 felony for alleged possession of firearm without FOID.

Timothy C. Barnett, 52, Fairfield, charged with a Class 4 felony for alleged driving while driver's license revoked.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENT

Jeffery T. Smiley, Arcola, pleaded guilty to theft. Fined \$200.

REAL ESTATE

Bradley Nall granted a power of attorney to Kourtney Marie Gosnell for Meadowview Sub. Tuscola, Lot 106.

Champaign Investment LLC granted a warranty deed to Bradley All for Meadowview Sub. Tuscola, Lot 106.

Bradley Nall granted a mortgage to Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc., Mortgage Research Center LLC and Veterans United Home Loans for Sec. 2, Twp. 15, Range 8, Govt. Lot NW; Meadowview Sub. Tuscola, Lot 106.

Kristen Nicole Rocke and Kristen Nicole Thompson granted a warranty deed to Phillip Wayne Gingerich and Viola R. Gingerich for OT Arthur, Block 21, Lot 2.

Phillip Wayne Gingerich and Viola R. Gingerich granted a mortgage to The Peoples State Bank of Newton for OT Arthur, Block 21, Lot 2.

Kelly L. Headrick granted a mortgage to First Mid Bank & Trust NA for

Sec. 12, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot SE SE; Sec. 12, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot SW SE; Sec. 12, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot NW SE; Sec. 13, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot NW.

Amy Fifield and Corey Fifield granted a mortgage to First Mid Bank & Trust National Association for Prairie Meadow Sub Arcola - Phase 2, Lot 29.

Austin A. Apgar granted a modification of mtg. to Bankchampaign NA for Sec. 13, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot SE, Tuscola.

Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. and Quicken Loans Inc. granted a release mortgage to Wesley A. Goad and Angela A. Smith for OT Tuscola, Block 42, Lots 8 & 9.

Nolan Charles granted a memo of judgment to Portfolio Recovery Associates LLC for 380 W. Main St., Arcola.

Fatima Aileen Pollock and Mark Allen Pollock granted a quitclaim deed to Fatima Aileen Pollock and Mark Allen Pollock for OT Tuscola, Block 52, Lot 9.

Fisher National Bank granted a satisfaction of mortgage to Crystal Hahnstadt and Peter Hahnstadt for Winston's Addn. Tuscola, Block 17, Lot 2.

Tuscola National Bank granted a release mortgage to Beverly A. Wetzel and Steven H. Wetzel for Sec. 27, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot NE, Tuscola.

First Neighbor Bank National Association granted a modification of mtg. to Heather Walker for Morning-side 1st Sub. Arthur, Lots 117 & 118.

Attorney General granted a release state tax lien to Mary Sue Eilrich for Sec. 19, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot SW; Sec. 14, Twp. 16,

Range 7, Govt. Lot NW NE.

First State Bank granted a release mortgage to Joseph J. Kauffman for Sec. 14, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot SE NE, Tuscola.

First State Bank granted a release mortgage to Brett Garrett and Dakota Little for Mathers' NE Addn. Tuscola, Block 19, Lot 23.

First State Bank granted a release mortgage to Susan E. Adkisson for Southward Square Tuscola, Lot 5.

First State Bank granted a release mortgage to Heidi Reiff Wenger and Jeffrey L. Wenger for Romine Addn. Atwood, Lot 12.

Sherilyn Douglas and Steven L. Douglas granted a loan modification and ex. agreement to Villa Grove State Bank for Sec. 4, Twp. 16, Range 9, Govt. Lot NE.

Geronimo Picazo granted a mortgage to Lakeview community Capital LLC and Mortgage Electronic Registration Systems Inc. for Wamsley & Cannon's Addn. Tuscola, Block 12, Lots 3 & 4.

The Gifford State Bank granted a satisfaction of mortgage to Stephanie L. Turner and Timothy J. Turner for Sec. 28, Twp. 16, Range 14, Govt. Lot NE NW, Newman.

Villa Grove State Bank granted a release mortgage to Hannah M. Simpson and Rhett M. Simpson for Plum Grove Sub. Camargo, Lots 40 & 41.

Sue B. Yerxa granted an easement to Ameren Illinois and Ameren Illinois Company for Sec. 29, Twp. 16, Range 10, Govt. Lot NW SW.

Charles A. Bretz, trustee, Bretz Family Trust and Many L. Bretz, trustee, granted an easement to Ameren Illinois and Ameren Illinois

Company for Sec. 30, Twp. 16, Range 10, Govt. Lot NE SE.

Sandra C. Bragg, trustee, Stephen Bragg, trustee, and SB Trust granted an easement to Ameren Illinois and Ameren Illinois Company for Sec. 28, Twp. 16, Range 9.

Secretary of Housing and Urban Development granted a release mortgage to Olga Cisneros and Salomon Medina for Arco Acres 1st Arcola, Block 5, Lot 14.

Green Lincoln Partners LLC granted a loan mod. and ex. agree. to The Prudential Insurance Company of America for Sec. 1, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot NE; Sec. 6, Twp. 15, Range 8.

John Edward Wilson Sr. granted a corrective warranty deed to Michael A. Blottiaux for Enterprise Sub. Tuscola of Blocks 15, 16, & 17 of Mather's NE Addn., Block 5, Lot 15.

Clint James Cleland granted an affidavit to Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Peggy S. Dundas, Deborah E. Follett, Reba McCarty, Steven R. McCarty and Sheryl L. Reeder granted a warranty deed to Rory Lamkin for Meadowview Sub. Tuscola, Lot 31.

Theresa Quednau granted a warranty deed to Clayton Knierim for Shaw's Addn. Newman, Block 2, Lot 5.

City of Arcola granted a release to Paris Machine Company for OT Okaw, Block 2, Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10.

Alexandria Stewart and Kyle Stewart granted a quitclaim deed to Raymond B. Miller for North Ward Square Estates, Lots 12 & 13.

Jennifer Dillon and Mark Dillon

granted a mortgage to Longview Bank for George White's 1st Addn. Newman, Block 2.

Jennifer Dillon and Mark Dillon granted an assignment to Longview Bank for George White's 1st Addn. Newman, Block 2.

Longview Bank granted a release mortgage to Mark A. Dillon for George White's 1st Addn. Newman, Block 2.

University of Illinois Community Credit Union granted a release mortgage to Hannah M. Simpson and Rhett M. Simpson for Plum Grove Sub. Camargo, Lots 40 & 41.

Jacob A. Miller and Verna V. Miller granted a warranty deed to Andrew J. Herschberger and Laverna M. Herschberger for Sec. 29, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot NW.

Rocky Lane Woodworking, Rosanna O. Schrock, Willard R. Schrock and Willard Ray Schrock granted a lis pendens to Old National Bank for Sec. 31, Twp. 15, Range 7, Govt. Lot SW SE.

Justin D. Keown granted a modification of mtg. to Flat Branch Mortgage Inc. for OT Tuscola, Block 32, Lots 12 & 13.

Think Mutual Bank granted a satisfaction of mortgage to Bhavna Patel and Sanjay Patel for Sec. 27, Twp. 16, Range 8, Govt. Lot NW; Iron Horse Sub. Tuscola, Lot 101.

Eleanor R. Hobbs granted a warranty deed to Kristen A. Rideout, Jay D. Russell, Ken N. Russell and Nancy J. Russell for Finney and Wallace, Block 6, Lot 6.

Illinois National Bank and INB National Association granted a release mortgage to Heather A. O'Connor and Patrick O'Connor for Gross' 5th Addn. Atwood, Lot 3.

Soldiers

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Welcome Home Project in Decatur, they will soon be working at MasterBrand in Arthur along with five Afghans living in Atwood. They are assisted by Ilene Henderson, a U.S. staff sergeant who fought along the same roads that they did in Afghanistan. Henderson herself had a \$150,000 bounty on her head but only if captured alive.

The men are now refugees having fled on one of the last flights out of Afghanistan last summer. They spent time in relocation camps, arriving with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. They left their wives, children and possessions behind. It was survival, not a choice.

"We had to leave," said Himat through an interpreter, Zahid, who communicated by phone from Afghanistan. "We knew they wouldn't leave us alive," Himat said.

The men were working as security forces. "Promises started to collapse," Himat said. "We were shocked not knowing what was going on. The Taliban was taking over the province where we were working. We had to come to the U.S."

Himat said he first flew to Germany and then to a camp in Texas. He said there were really good people at the camp, and the evacuees had access to healthcare, laundry and food, although the food was not what he was accustomed to. He said the evacuees were well taken care of. "People here are really hospitable."

While the men are getting settled here, their families face extraordinary obstacles. They move from place to place constantly to avoid capture by the Taliban.

Zahid said, "Don't tell them because it would upset them, but their homes have been looted." He said the Taliban is searching for their families and have stolen their cars, furniture, jewelry and other valuables.

Rohid, another one of the evacuees, said they are able to talk to their families but that they would not be safe if they did not keep moving. "They are not in the same place all the time. If they didn't get out, they would face lots of problems or be killed. ... [the Taliban] wouldn't let our families live in peace.

The Taliban cannot be trusted, Rohid said. "Whatever the Taliban says, they promise

one thing but don't take responsibility."

Zahid echoed the comment saying that a lot of people have gone missing. Everyone knows they were killed by the Taliban, but the Taliban will not acknowledge it. They say they will investigate missing persons but weeks go by with no updates. He said he lives under house arrest.

If the government there were to change and the Taliban was out, Rohid said he'd be on the next plane back. But as long as the Taliban is in charge, "I'm not able to go there," he said.

The men said they're aware that there is an anti-Muslim bias in America but they have not experienced that in Douglas County. Akram said he saw a video where a woman called the police because the men had walked past her shop and she didn't know who they were and wondered if they could be terrorists.

"I'd like people to know we are people who fought against the Taliban," he said. "We've been screened many times. Much more than Americans would be." He said most of the men here "fought should-to-shoulder with Americans for almost 20 years."

Henderson said she spent a

year in southeast Afghanistan working alongside the Pashtun tribe. "There are no other people as honorable, respectful and dedicated as the Afghan people, especially the Pashtuns," she said.

"You shouldn't judge all Muslims because of some," Rohid said. "Not every Muslim is a terrorist. ... So far, people have been really nice," he continued. "I've not heard anything bad."

He praised the U.S. justice system. "It's not like other countries. There are rules and regulations and law enforcement. I can call the police [if there is a problem]."

Yes, they are Muslim, he said. "We helped the U.S. There's a big difference. The five fingers on one hand are not equal to the other one."

He also expressed appreciation for America's freedom of speech. "I cannot close someone's mouth. They have freedom of speech," he said. But if someone did try to start trouble, "We know how to handle it," he said.

The men were a little taken aback to see Amish buggies pulled by horses, but they view it as a positive sign of America's diversity. "It gives us lots of hope," Rohid said. "We want to live the way we want to live, and they want to keep their culture. We want them to follow their culture. You can live the way you want to. ... We're really happy about that."

The weather and the landscape have big changes for the men, too. Bawary, another of the evacuees, said he has "no problem with the weather." He said it's really hot in the sum-

mer where he's from but "we conducted missions in really cold areas. We will adapt with the weather."

Where they are from also had mountains, jungles and a lot of trees. That's something they miss. The infrastructure is much different, too.

The men spend their days chatting with each other talking about the past and the future. They have been out shopping and said they're able to communicate with their hands. They know a handful of English words. Henderson noted that they understand more English than they're able to speak, so if someone thinks he can talk behind their backs without their understanding, they may be surprised.

They trained with U.S. forces and worked with Americans in Afghanistan, so they understand more than they're comfortable speaking, she said.

Zahid commented that in learning a new language, people tend to learn the "bad words" first. He chuckled that Afghans know what the "F-word" is but they take it literally. When they hear it used as a superlative, they get embarrassed because they think of it as the American word for sex.

The men praised the work of the Afghan Welcome Home Project and their new neighbors in Douglas County. People have been generous and welcoming, they said. "We love them."

Rohid asked that people continue to help so more evacuees can start their new lives in America. He acknowledged that it takes a lot of people working together to make relo-

cation possible. "We have a saying in Afghanistan: you cannot clap with one hand," he said. "They cannot do anything by themselves."


Henderson said the men need people from the community to help them with shopping including buying them groceries and clothes. All of the men are legal to work in the U.S., she said, and they are willing to take on odd jobs. Even after they start working at MasterBrand, they are interested in working weekends around the community. They want to be able to support themselves and to send money to their families.

The community has been accommodating, Henderson said. A local baker has invited Bawary to show them how he makes flat bread so they can produce it on a larger scale for the men. Bawary is an excellent cook and needs to open a restaurant, she said.

A local farmer has also offered to let the men butcher their own meat at his farm. While many of the foods they eat are the same as American cuisine, they eat goat and sheep but only if they are slaughtered in accordance with Muslim traditions.

She added that they are really good volleyball players and would welcome a pick-up game of volleyball. They also play cricket.

If anyone is interested in helping, Henderson can be reached at 404-234-6513 or by email at AfghanWHP@gmail.com.



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Evacuees

From page 1

men who were in Afghan special forces and fled with nothing but the clothes they were wearing. The program has been working with churches and other organizations to find housing, food and clothing. A community is much better equipped to help than the government is, she said.

In Arcola, a landlord provided three months free rent for the evacuees. They currently are in need of a 15-passenger van that can be borrowed to take the men to and from work. They do not have drivers licenses.

She said they do not need furniture at this time but could use clothes (smaller than the average American) and services such as haircuts and den-

tal care. If multiple people would step up to take them shopping for clothes and groceries, it would be a big help, she said, including paying for the sales.

If anyone wants more information or wish to help the men, Henderson can be reached at 404-234-6513 or by email at AfghanWHP@gmail.com.